ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

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WALTER REED ANNIVERSARY

The One Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of Major Walter Reed, renowned bacteriologist and clinical pathologist, will be celebrated this month. Walter Reed is best known for his work as Chairman of the Yellow Fever Board which went to Cuba in June 1900 and in the following six months conclusively proved that yellow fever is transmitted by the mosquito. He was born 13 September 1851 and died 23 November 1902, only a few weeks after he had been named Librarian of the Army Medical Library.

Interest in Walter Reed is nation wide. Radio and television shows, exhibits, newspaper stories, and other special events are planned to honor the centenary of his birth. Naturally enough, interest has centered in the yellow fever experiments carried on at Columbia Barracks by Reed and his co-workers, and the Library has been a focal point for supplying information concerning him and his scientific achievements. In addition to its activity of a purely ancillary character, the Library will participate in the anniversary celebration by presenting a public exhibit. Because of the fact that Reed as the "Conqueror of Yellow Fever" will be duly honored elsewhere, the Library's exhibit will attempt to present a more personal view of his life. This is fitting, for in his capacity as Curator of the Army Medical Museum, as Instructor in the Army Medical School, and finally though briefly as Librarian of the Army Medical Library, the last several years of Major Reed's life were much centered in the building presently occupied by the Library. So too, we may believe, was his heart: concerning his assignment as Librarian, he is said to have remarked that it fulfilled "the highest ambition" of his life.

The Library's exhibit will consist of photographs and manuscript material. The photographs show Walter Reed, the Army Medical School Class of 1901-1902, his birthplace in Gloucester County, Virginia, and his grave in Arlington National Cemetery. Manuscripts include Walter Reed's application for the position of Assistant Surgeon, United States Army, his letter of acceptance, duty reports from the Army Medical Museum and from Columbia Barracks, Cuba, and, in Major Borden's hand, clinical charts of Reed's last hours together with the formal notice of death.

UNIV. OF MICH.

Printing cost borne by Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library.

The documents relating to Walter Reed's life will be viewed with mixed emotions. Some of them will be interpreted in terms of his final great achievement, with the consequent saving of human life and suffering; others are touched with the melancholy of his sudden and untimely death. Studied as a whole, these documents present another and less dramatic evaluation: that of a sincere individual, more mindful of duty than self, finding satisfaction and opportunity for worth, whatever his assignment.

HONORARY CONSULTANTS

An editorial entitled "Progress Toward a World Index of Medical Literature," by Dr. Morris Fishbein, appears in the August 1951 issue of Postgraduate Medicine.

In his article "United Nations Medical Service in Korean Conflict," JAMA, 146:1307-10 [4 Aug. 51], Major General Edgar Erskine Hume, Chief Medical Officer of the United Nations Forces in Korea, offers a preliminary report on the medical activities of the UN Forces there.

The National Geographic Magazine for August 1951 also contains an article by General Hume, entitled "The Palio of Siena," describing the colorful pageantry of Siena's celebrated horse race, the Corsa del Palio, which is held twice a year and has survived since the Middle Ages.

An article by Dr. Atherton Seidell, "Microfilm in Relation to Reference Service," is published in the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association for July 1951.

Dr. Robert M. Stecher has presented the Library a copy of the Year Book of the Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme, which contains a roster of the registered rheumatologists throughout the world. Dr. Stecher is President-Elect of the Ligue.

PARIS DISSERTATIONS

The Library has received from Dr. Atherton Seidell an additional eleven reels of microfilm containing 222 dissertations of the Medical Faculty of the University of Paris. These complete our files of Paris dissertations through the year 1946. Succeeding years will be filmed as rapidly as circumstances permit.

MEETING OF HONORARY CONSULTANTS

The Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library will hold its Eighth Annual Meeting in Washington on Friday, 26 October 1951. It will be a one-day meeting with a morning session at the Library and an afternoon session at the Willard Hotel.

Dr. C. E. Sunderlin, Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation, will be the dinner speaker.

The Executive Committee will meet on the evening preceding the Annual Meeting.

ACQUISITION

Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, Past President of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library, has presented the manuscript of his Logan Clendenning lectures at the University of Kansas, The Old Egyptian Medical Papyri (Clendenning Lectures, Second Series, 1951). This interesting document in the history of medicine bears the complimentary indorsement: "For the Army Medical Library, Washington, in deep appreciation of the most skillful and courteous medical library staff anywhere, and of its superb facilities for scholarly study."

MR. GROESBECK LEAVING AML

Mr. Joseph A. Groesbeck, Assistant Librarian for Acquisitions, will leave the Library about the middle of October to accept the position of Chief of the Processing Division of the United Nations Library, in New York City.

Mr. Groesbeck, formerly chief of the Acquisitions Department, Detroit Public Library, was appointed Chief of the Acquisition Division, Army Medical Library, on 1 April 1948. He brought to AML a talent of a very high order and has done yeoman's work in shaping its collections. His departure leaves a vacancy in the Library's councils which will be difficult to fill.

PUBLICATION

A revised edition of the procedure for "Organizing Small Medical Libraries" has been prepared based on Captain Harold W. Tucker's observations during his recent visits to Army Medical Service libraries in the field. A limited number of copies are available on request to the Catalog Division.

HOSPITAL PICTURES

Letters are going out this month to representative American hospitals, soliciting pictures of medical interest for the Art Section collection. This is an effort toward carrying out the Library's responsibility to collect and preserve all types of materials which record the history of medicine.

The mailing is necessarily selective and hospitals not receiving individual requests are invited to send pictures. The Library wants interior and exterior views of medical institutions of all ages, types, and sizes, preferably 8 by 10-inch glossy prints. It is interested also in receiving booklets published on the occasion of the opening of new buildings and on centennial and other anniversaries. All pictures received will be cataloged and preserved for future use.

Please address pictures to the Catalog Division, Army Medical Library, Washington 25, D. C.

STAFF NOTES

The July issue of the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association contains the following articles by Library staff members:

Charen, Thelma: The Etymology of Medicine. p. 216-21.

Baer, Karl A.: Johann Sebastian Bach [1685-1750] in Medical History. p. 206-11.

The Bulletin of the History of Medicine for July-August 1951 contains a review by Dr. William Jerome Wilson of F. Sherwood Taylor's The Alchemists, Founders of Modern Chemistry.

Mr. Joseph B. Runey has been selected for the post of Head of the Order Section, Acquisition Division, and will report for duty this month. Mr. Runey comes from the Acquisition Department of the University of Illinois Library, has had previous order experience at the University of Michigan Library and in the booktrade, and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and of the Library School, University of Michigan.

Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Chief of the Catalog Division, sailed on 28 August for a vacation trip to Europe. She will visit Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland, returning in late October.

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